(c) The Government is promoting development of the renewable energy sector through a mix of fiscal and financial incentives that include capital/interest subsidy, accelarated depreciation, nil/concessional excise and customs duties. Further benefit under Section 80-1A of Income Tax Act 1961 is available to undertakings setup for the generation or generation and distribution of Renewable power in India. This apart, preferential tariff for grid interactive renewable power is being given in most potential States.

Royalty on mineral exploration

*385. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is proposing any measures to review the royalty issue pertaining to mineral exploration in the country;

(b) if so, whether the said review would provide additional revenues, to that of the present, to the States where the exploration/mining is taking place;

(c) if so, the details of the new methodology that would be adopted to calculate teh royalty payable to the States; and

(d) how much additional revenue is expected to accrue to Andhra Pradesh during 2008-09?

THE MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI SIS RAM OLA): (a) to (d) As per Section 9 of the MMDR Act, 1957 a lessee of mining lease has to pay royalty in respect of any mineral removed by him, at the rate specified in the Second Schedule to the said Act in respect of that mineral. In order to revise the rates of royalty as per this provision a Study Group was set-up that submitted its recommendations to the Government which is under consideration of the Government. The same revised rates of royalty will be applicable to Andhra Pradesh also as in case of other States.

Sexual abuse at work place

†*389. SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN TIWARI: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been an increase in the incidents of sexual abuse at the work places during the recent past;

(b) if so, whether any step has been taken by Government the check such incidents; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) As per information received from National Crime Records Bureau, a total of 10001, 9984 and 9966 cases of sexual harassment (Section 509 IPC) (at work places and elsewhere) where registered in the country during 2004-2006, there by showing a declining trend.

(b) and (c) In order to minimise the incidence of sexual harassment of women, the Government has requested all the Central Ministries/Departments, Chief Secretaries of all the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations, Universities/Institutions, Central Board of Secondary Education. All India Council of Technical Education to constitute complaints committees and to ensure that the guidelines laid down by the Supreme Court in the Vishaka case for prevention of sexual harassment at workplace are implemented.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

The National Commission for Women (NCW) formulated a Code of Conduct for Workplace, putting dow the Supreme Court's guidelines mentioned above in a simple manner. This has been circulated to all stake holders.

The Central Civil Services (Conduct) Rules, 1964 has been amended to include sexual harassment as a misconduct. Amendments have been made to the Industrial Employment (Standing Orders) Act, 1946 so that the sexual harassment of women at workplace in the private sector could constitute an offence for which a workman is liable for diciplinary action.

Necessary instruction have been issued by the Ministry of Labour and Employment to all State Labour Secretaries asking them to take suitable action to apply the provisions of the Industrial Employment (Standing Orders) Act, 1946 to small establishments like call centres and shops in the unorganized sector.

Setting up of more courts

*392. SHRI HARISH RAWAT:
SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Chief Justice of India has recently emphasized the need for a court, at least of Judicial Magistrate 1st class (JMIC) cum Civil Judge (Junior Division), within a radius of 25-30 kms. for speedy disposal of cases and for convenience of the public;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government in this regard;

(c) whether the involvement of senior citizens and the help of village elders would also be taken for speedy settlement of cases; and

(d) if so, the steps Government proposes to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) The Chief Justice of India has been emphasizing the need to increase the judicial man power in subordinate courts. In recent letters dated 7th April, 2008 he has desired that additional courts for trial of corruption cases investigated by Central Bureau of Investigation and more family courts be set up.

(b) The matter is under consideration with the Government.

(c) No Sir.

(d) Question does not arise in view of reply to (c) above.

Shortage of teachers in schools

†*393. MS. SUSHILA TIRIYA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a shortage of teachers in a large number of schools in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;

(c) whether some primary schools have only one teacher;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi